

The independent claim 1 defines a method claim which fulfills and meets the requirements for novelty and inventiveness and is thereby a generic claim which defines a unique inventive concept of the present application.

Applicant's inventive concept is defined by the combination of the elements and features of claim 1. The method for thermomechanical treatment of steel as defined in claim 1, relates to a method encompassing and including different steels that can be used as starting materials.

Claim 1, furthermore, defines thermomechanical treatment of straight, round steel rods and leaves broadly the manner in which the resulting straight steel rods are to be further processed.

Applicant notes, moreover, that the German Patent and Trademark Office, as well as the European Office has recognized the patentability of the original claim 1. It was not required to restrict this independent claim to the embodiments of claims 18, 19 and 20 for steel types, or to claims 21, 22 and 23 for further processing methods.

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Respectfully submitted,

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